

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

January 29, 2002 LB 95

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Bromm.

SENATOR BROMM: That's correct, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Then that's why I want my amendment adopted. I want to kill this bill any way that I can. We can make it easy or we can make it hard. If the Legislature is willing to give this time for the liquor industry, then it can do so. But here's the funny thing with the public and the way the media report on what I do, the Legislature and the liquor industry can bring these bad bills, and there's not much in the way of a reaction that is negative. But when I fight against these things then I become the bad fellow, because I don't have a right to stand against those things that I feel are harmful. So I'm going to let the Legislature help establish some priorities on this bill. We're going to see how much time the Legislature is going to give to the liquor industry. Not one person can stand on this floor and say this bill has anything to do with the common good, with the uplift of society, with the inculcation of proper values in our young people. None of those arguments can be given so why should the Legislature take all this time? Because there are some purveyors of alcohol who want to make that profit from this devil's brew, "John and Jane Barleycorn", and they are coming to us with a bill like this, at a time when everybody is lamenting the carnage on the highways that result from the consumption of alcohol in connection with a vehicle. We know that the bill says, with my amendment or without it, that the driver is not to drink. Well, I'm sure that the people who put those children on that bus in Andover, Maryland, told that driver, you take these kids to school or home, and didn't tell him to...tell him to take them to Washington D.C. Drivers don't always do what they're told to do. We should not create that set of circumstances where bad things can happen. You put this bill in place, with or without my amendment, and the driver drinks, and crashes, and people are killed, all you can say is, well, the driver disobeyed the law. But the law allowed the alcoholic beverages to be in the vehicle, and somebody may have gotten lit up, like a Christmas tree, and felt the driver ought to be a part of the whole party too, and gave the driver some liquor. We don't need to create